

Appl. No.: 10/822,959
Amdt. dated 07/18/2005
Reply to Office action of May 19, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendments above and the remarks below are in response to a final Office Action mailed on May 19, 2005 in the above-referenced application. In the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 9-10, 13-16 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,220,319 to Kendel ("Kendel"). Claims 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kendel and *In re Leshin*.

Kendel discloses an adaptable key holder for a remote control transmitter 101, as shown in Figure 1A. Figure 1A, in particular, shows a person's hand 100 holding a remote control transmitter 101 in "a preferred orientation between the most frequently accessed button 102 and the key 103 connected by the key ring 104," as described at column 2, lines 10-15 of Kendel. In addition, Kendel states that the gripped orientation of Figure 1A is preferred. "This person would desire to pickup this device in this orientation based on what felt comfortable to him." See column 2, lines 15-17 of Kendel.

The key holder is in the form of a removable ring 200 that is fabricated of a thermoplastic elastomer "that is not only easily removable but provides a moisture seal around the remote control transmitter 101 as it grips the remote control transmitter's 101 exterior edge," as described at column 2, lines 26-30 of Kendel. As can be seen from Figures 2A, 2B and 3 of Kendel, the removable ring 200 includes a circular band that has a relatively broad width compared to a very narrow thickness. Notably, the broad width of the circular band of Kendel is the same width as the edge of the remote control transmitter's exterior edge.

Claims 1 of the present application describes a grip flange with a body configured for attachment to the mobile station and a peripheral edge extending at least partially around the body, wherein the peripheral edge has a thickness less than that of the mobile station. This relatively thin peripheral edge facilitates gripping of the grip flange to hold the mobile station which is relatively thick compared to the peripheral edge. The circular band of the removable ring 200 of Kendel has a broad width that is shown as being the same thickness as the remote control transmitter's exterior edge. Kendel, therefore, does not disclose Claim 1 of the present invention.

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Kendel does not suggest that the circular band of the key holder 200 would benefit a sufficiently small thickness to be gripped and in fact only describes and illustrates preferred, comfortable gripping of the assembly by grasping the remote control transmitter 101 and not any part of the key holder. Kendel does describe the key holder as gripping the remote control transmitter, but not the key holder itself being gripped by a hand to support the remote control transmitter. Kendel, therefore, fails to teach or suggest the present invention recited in Claim 1 including the grip flange with the grippable peripheral edge having a thickness less than that of the mobile station it supports.


None of the remaining cited references, alone and in combination with Kendel, appears to teach or suggest a grip flange with a grippable peripheral edge for supporting a mobile station and having a thickness less than the mobile station. Claim 13 also describes a method of using a grip flange with an outwardly extending peripheral edge having a thickness less than that of its mobile station. The remaining Claims 2-12 and 14- 21 depend from, and further patentably distinguish, independent Claims 1 and 13. Claims 1-21 of the present application should therefore be allowable over Kendel and the remaining cited references and the rejections of Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a) have therefore been overcome.

In view of the remarks and amendments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-21 of the present application are in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

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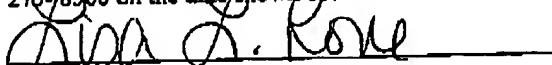
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